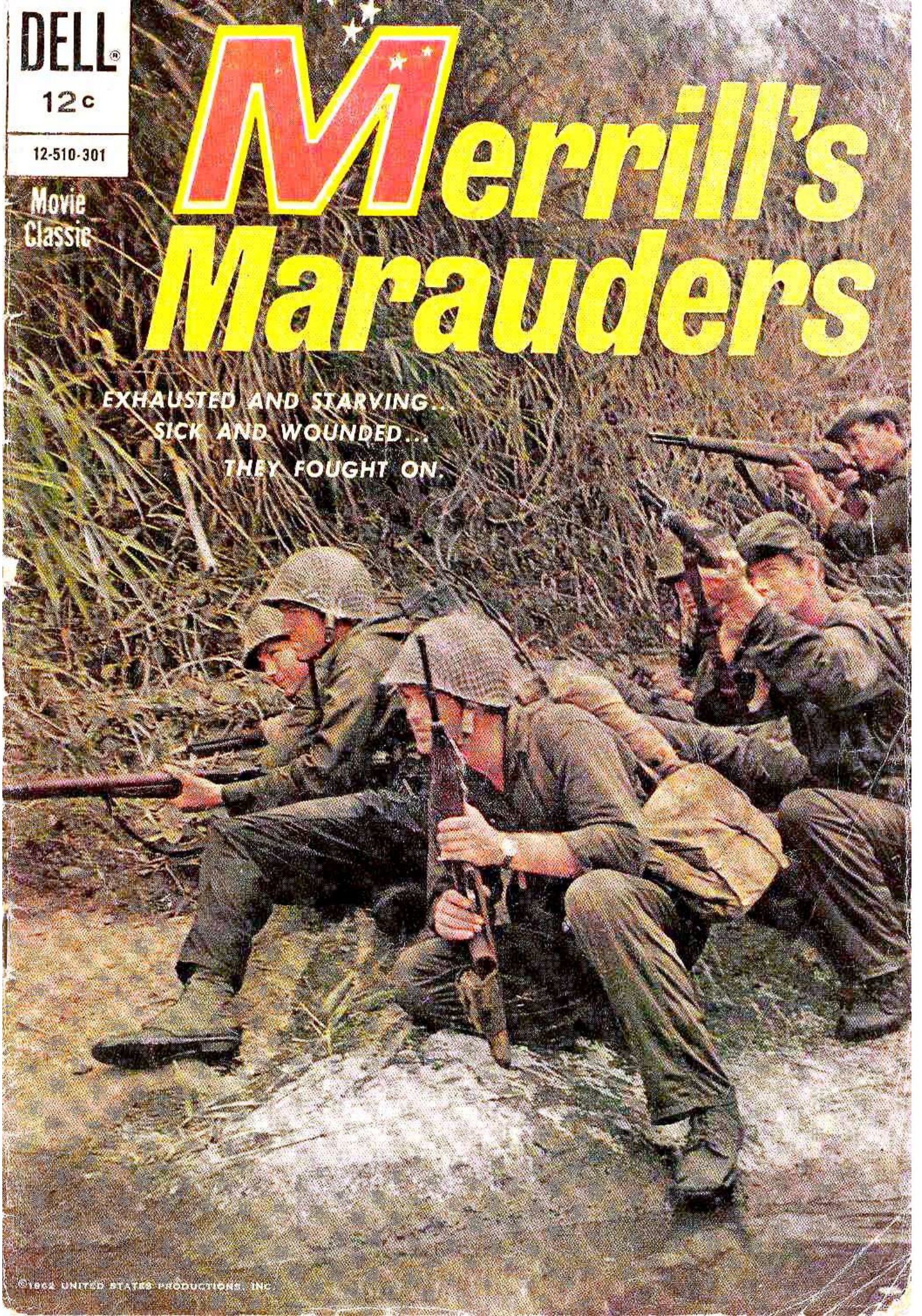
DELL®
12c
12-510-301
Movie Classic

# Merrill's Marauders

EXHAUSTED AND STARVING...
SICK AND WOUNDED...
THEY FOUGHT ON.



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WARNER BROS. Pictures Presents

# Merrill's Marauders

*Starring*

**JEFF CHANDLER**

**TY HARDIN**
**PETER BROWN**
**ANDREW DUGGAN**
**WILL HUTCHINS**
**CLAUDE AKINS**

*with* **LUZ VALDEZ**
(Courtesy of L. V. N. Studio)

TECHNICOLOR ®

A United States Productions Photoplay

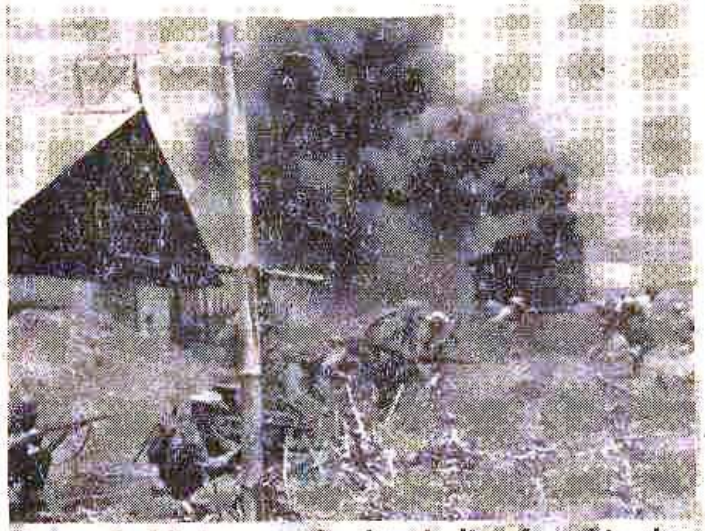
*Screenplay by Milton Sperling and Samuel Fuller*

From the book by Charlton Ogburn, Jr.

*Produced by* Milton Sperling — *Directed by* Samuel Fuller

ADAPTED FROM THE MOTION PICTURE

*Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill led his Marauders into Burma to take Walawbum, an enemy supply base.*



*Instead of being sent back to India after this, they are ordered to take the railhead at Shaduzup.*

*Then they're ordered to take Mitchina. Sick; starv.. ing and wounded, they advanced relentlessly...*

*Merrill himself, exhausted almost beyond belief, rallies his men on to the final fight for victory.*

# Merrill's Marauders

BURMA, 1944: THE 5307th COMPOSITE UNIT (PROVISIONAL)... MERRILL'S MARAUDERS, IS DEEP BEHIND JAPANESE LINES IN THE DENSE JUNGLE. THE UNIT HAS TRAVELLED MORE THAN A 100 MILES TOWARD IT'S OBJECTIVE THE SMALL BUT STRATEGIC VILLAGE OF WALAWBUM. THEY HAVE GONE UNDETECTED SO FAR BUT THE JUNGLE IS TAKING ITS TOLL. THE MEN ARE TENSE AND IRRITABLE.

THEY ARE LED BY TALL, RUGGED BRIG. GENERAL FRANK MERRILL. HE ALSO SUFFERS FROM FATIGUE BUT DRIVES HIS MEN ON THROUGH THE RELENTLESS JUNGLE.

AS THEY FORDED THE RIVER, THEIR EYES BULGED WITH NEAR PANIC, FOR THEY WERE NOW OUT IN THE OPEN. THEIR EYES SEARCHED FOR SNIPERS...

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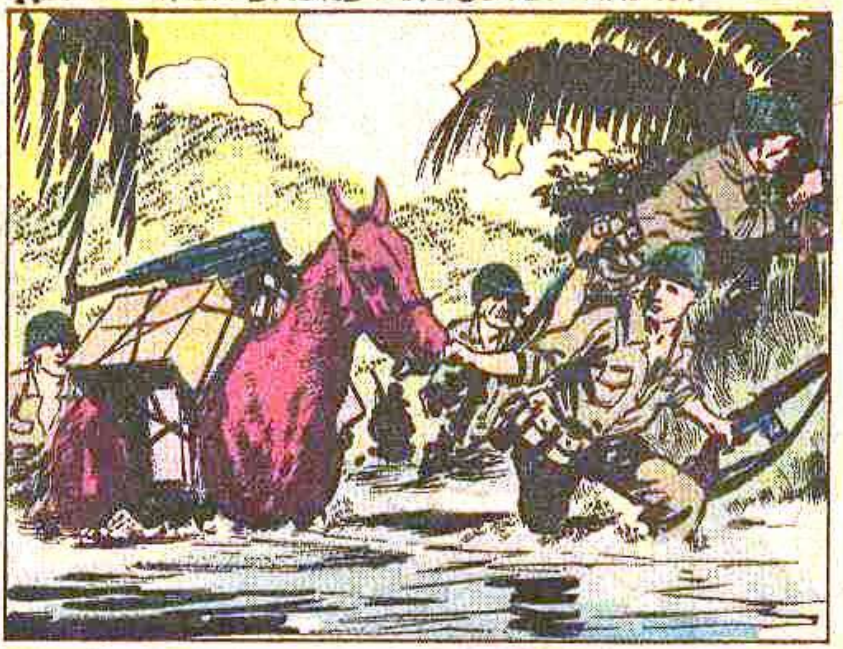
THE ONLY SOUND WAS THE HUSH OF MEN CROSSING THE RIVER. SUDDENLY, MERRILL HEARD THE DRONE OF AN APPROACHING PLANE.. AND REACTED.

ALL THE MEN BROKE FOR COVER AND...



...IN A COUPLE OF SECONDS THE AREA APPEARED COMPLETELY DESERTED.

AS THE PLANE ROARED DIRECTLY OVERHEAD....

THE MEN FELT LIKE THE DEAD WAITING FOR A VULTURE TO COME DOWN AS THE PLANE CIRCLED OVERHEAD, THE ROAR ABOUT TO DRIVE EVERY MAN CRAZY.

THEN THE SOUND GREW FAINTER AND FAINTER. THEN... SILENCE.

SNEAKING THREE THOUSAND MEN THROUGH HERE IS GOING TO DRIVE ME NUTS!... LEFT GUARD. THIS IS QUARTERBACK. COME IN LEFT GUARD.
LEFT GUARD HERE.

MERRILL WAS SPEAKING TO HIS 2ND BATTALION COMMANDER..
HOW DOES IT LOOK?
SCOUTS REPORT THREE HUNDRED ENEMY IN VILLAGE OF TANJA, GA, AND SIX ELEPHANTS HAULING 90MM. MORTAR AMMO. I'M BLOCKING THE TRAIL TO PROTECT YOUR FLANK.

GOOD... BUT KEEP YOUR BATTALION MOVING. TELL THE PATROLS TO MAKE NO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY. CUT THROUGH THE JUNGLE BEHIND TANJA, GA SO WE CAN MAKE THE END RUN... RIGHT GUARD. THIS IS QUARTERBACK. COME IN RIGHT GUARD.
THIS IS RIGHT GUARD.

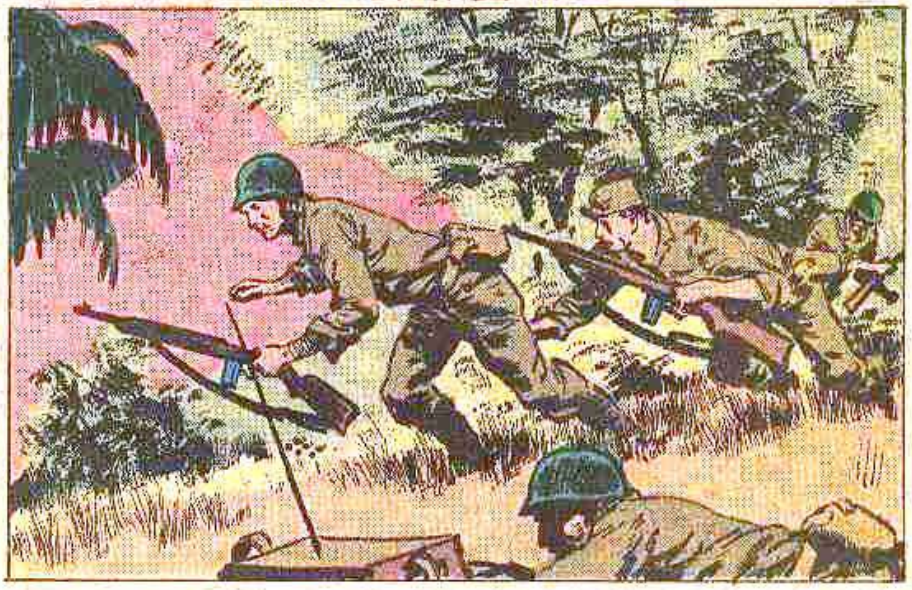
MERRILL WAS NOW SPEAKING TO HIS 3RD BATTALION COMMANDER....
WHAT'S THE PICTURE?
PATROLS REPORT ENEMY MOVING WEST ALONG RIVER BANK. WE'RE GETTING SET TO AMBUSH THEM. THEY'RE ONLY COMPANY STRENGTH.

DON'T TOUCH THEM! WE'RE NOT AFTER A SHORT GAIN... WE WANT A TOUCHDOWN AT WALAWBUM! HOLD WHERE YOU ARE UNTIL THEY PASS!

MERRILL TURNED TO HIS REGIMENTAL SURGEON...
DOC, DO YOU THINK THE MEN ARE AS JUMPY AS I AM?
COURSE THEY ARE. THIS KIND OF WAR ISN'T GIVING THEM AN OUTLET. YOU'VE GOT THREE THOUSAND NERVOUS WRECKS TO WORRY ABOUT AND I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE HOLDING OUT AS WELL AS YOU ARE.

NOTIFY POINT WE'RE ON MOVE AGAIN!
STOCK FROM QUARTERBACK. STOCK FROM QUARTERBACK. COME IN. STOCK.
SOME DISTANCE AHEAD, IN A CLEARING...
COME IN, STOCK. STOCK FROM QUARTERBACK.
SUDDENLY, LT. "STOCK" STOCKTON CRASHED INTO THE CLEARING...
COME IN, STOCK. COME IN, STOCK.
STOCK FROM QUARTERBACK! COME IN STOCK! COME IN, STOCK!
SOON...
COME IN, STOCK! COME IN, STOCK!
WHEELER'S DEAD, DID YOU GET YOUR JAP?
YES SIR. WE ALL COVERED OUR MEN. THERE'RE NO MORE JAPS AROUND HERE... YOU BETTER ANSWER MERRILL.

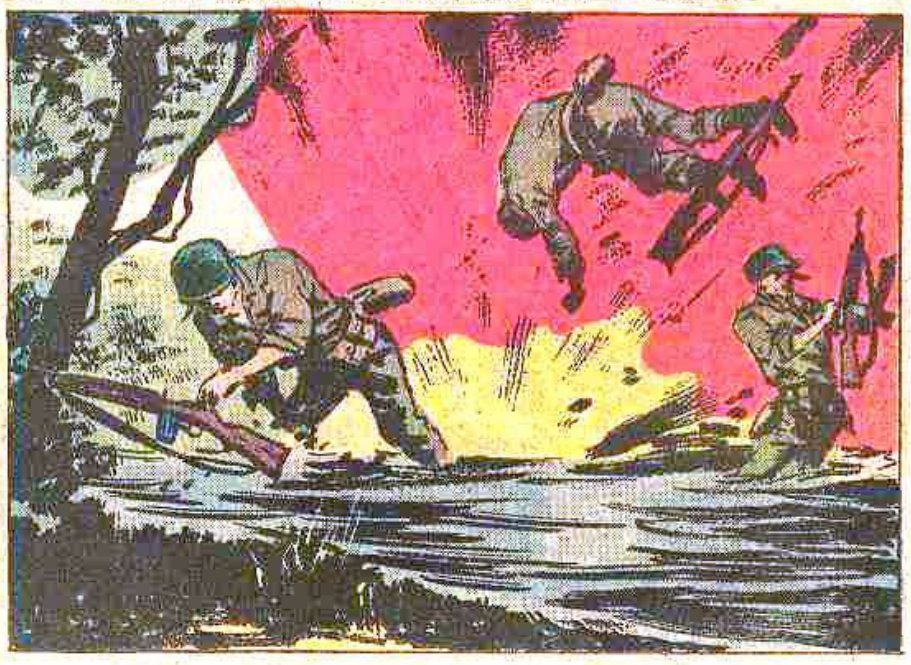
SUDDENLY THE CRACK OF A BIG GUN CLOSE BY SHATTERED THEIR EARDRUMS AND ROCKED THE GROUND AS THEY HIT THE DIRT...



BACK ON THE JUNGLE TRAIL, MERRILL AND HIS GROUP HEARD THE SHELL AS IT PASSED OVERHEAD WITH A HORRIFYING SCREAM.

AND TO THE REAR, THE MEN OF THE 3RD BATTALION WERE FORDING THE RIVER.

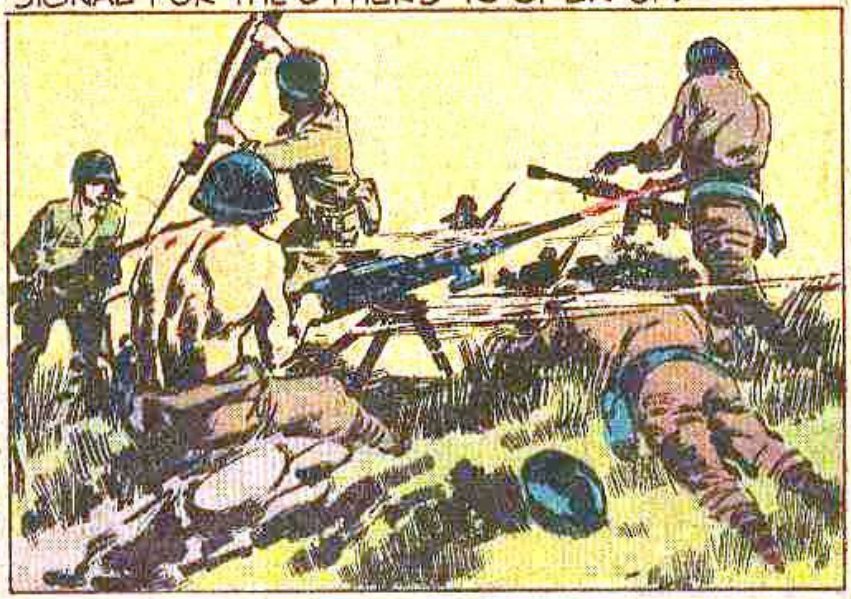
SUDDENLY... THE SHELL BURST IN THE WATER QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY TWO MORE SHELLS, A FOURTH LANDED ON THE RIVER BANK.



MERRILL RECEIVED REPORTS FROM THE 3RD BATTALION COMMANDER. HE QUICKLY CALLED STOCK TO THE RADIO....

KOLOWICZ, YOU HIT WITH SMOKE AND FRAG. TAGGY AND I'LL DRAW FIRE FROM THAT FLANK. WHEN WE OPEN UP, BULLSEYE GETS THE OFFICER AND THAT'S WHEN YOU MOVE, KOLOWICZ. COME ON TAGGY.

AS SOON AS THEY WERE IN POSITION, STOCK AND TAGGY OPENED FIRE WHICH WAS THE SIGNAL FOR THE OTHERS TO OPEN UP.



AFTER A SHORT, FIERCE BATTLE....

MERRILL CALLED UP HIS BATTALION COMMANDERS FOR A BRIEFING....

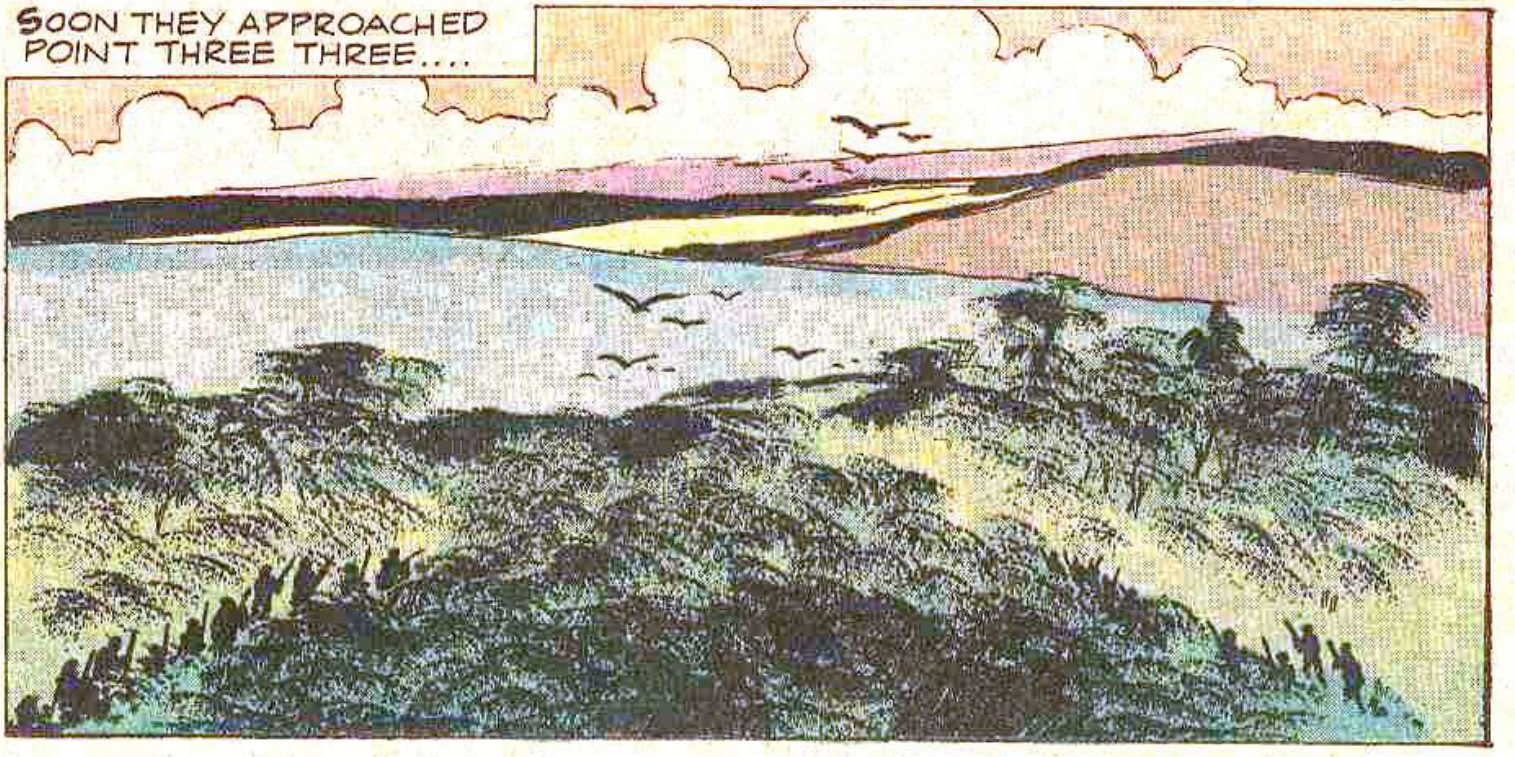
THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE. I DON'T THINK THEY KNOW OUR STRENGTH. BUT WE KNOW WHAT'S AT WALAWBUM..APPROXIMATELY FIVE THOUSAND JAPS. THE MINUTE WE CAPTURE THAT AMMO DUMP WE'LL BE ABLE TO LINK UP WITH THE BRITISH TROOPS.
SIR, LT. STOCKTON.

EXCUSE ME GENTLEMEN.. GO AHEAD, STOCK.
HANK TAPPED THEIR LINE, SIR. HERE'S HIS TRANSLATION. AMERICANS IN OUR REAR. WHERE? HOW MANY? WHAT'S THEIR STRENGTH? IDENTIFY THEIR UNITS. JAP BATTALION ORDERED TO REINFORCE WALAWBUM.

STOCK WILL MEET US AT POINT THREE THREE. WE HAVE TO BEAT A JAP BATTALION ON THE WAY TO WALAWBUM. IT'S A TWENTY MILE MARCH AND WE'VE GOT TO MOVE TWICE AS FAST AS BEFORE. HAVE YOUR MEN DROP THEIR PACKS. LET'S GO!

THE MARAUDERS MOVED OUT, DUMPING THEIR PACKS SO THEY COULD MOVE FASTER IN THEIR RACE AGAINST TIME.

SOON THEY APPROACHED POINT THREE THREE....



AS MERRILL AND STOCK MET, THEIR ADMIRATION FOR EACH OTHER WAS CLEAR IN THEIR FACES.

MERRILL LOVED THIS BANTER. IT PROVIDED MOMENTARY RELIEF FROM THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY HE WAS SHOULDERING.

I'M FATTER THAN THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE. HOW DO YOU LIKE MOVING TOWARD THE ENEMY INSTEAD OF RUNNING FROM THEM?
IT'S TOUGHER COMING BACK THAN IT WAS HIGHTAILING IT OUT OF HERE A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO... BUT IT'S A BETTER FEELING.

STOCK TOOK OFF TO CATCH UP TO HIS PLATOON. HE REACHED MAJOR NEMENY AND COL. BANNISTER....

RATHER UNUSUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A GENERAL AND LIEUTENANT.
SOME TIME OVER A LONG COLD DRINK I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THEM, WHEN MERRILL WAS A MAJOR AND STOCK WAS A SERGEANT.

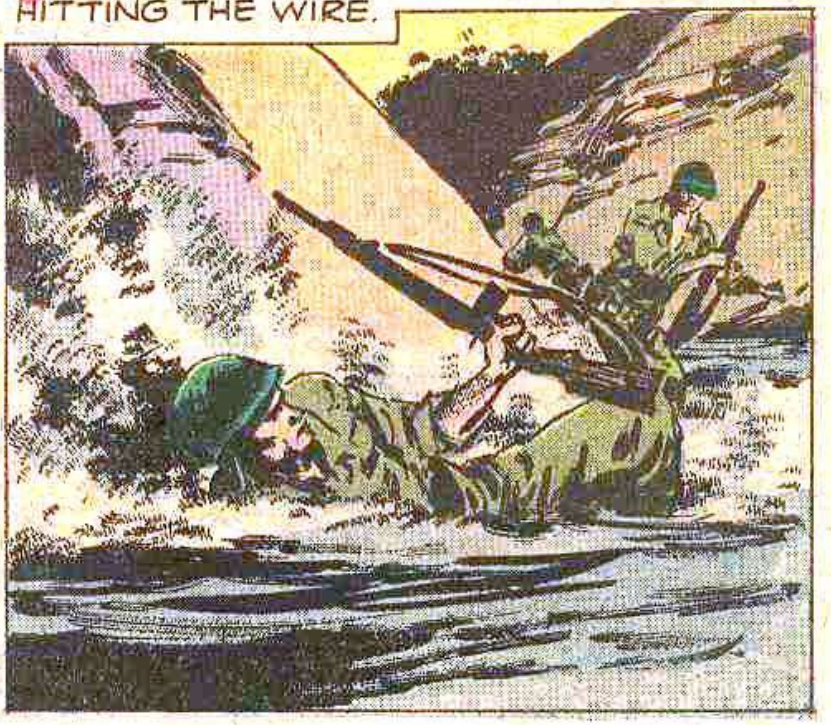
SOME TIME LATER, STOCK LED HIS PLATOON THROUGH A GORGE...

STOCK SUDDENLY STOPPED AND...

WORD WAS PASSED FROM ONE MAN TO ANOTHER AS THEY CAREFULLY STEPPED OVER THE TRIP WIRE EACH MAN GRIM AND SWEATING OUT INSTANT EXPLOSIVE DEATH.

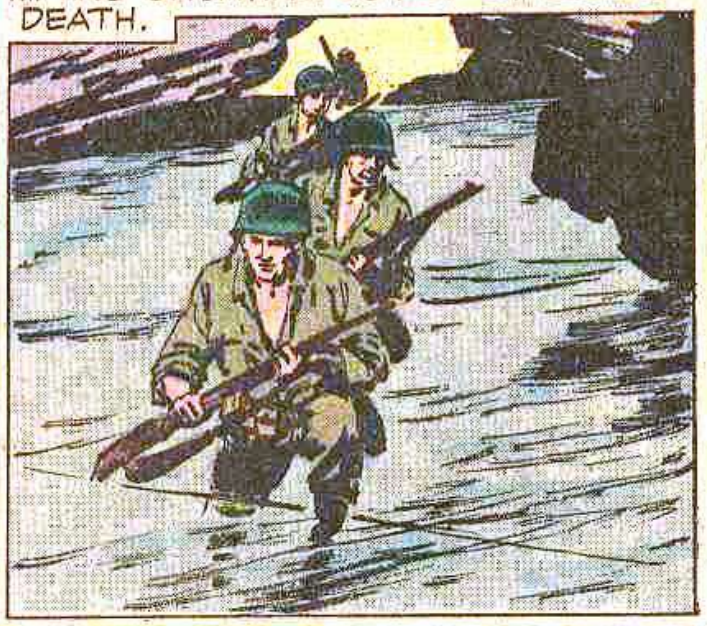
PVT. CHOWHOUND STEPPED OVER THE WIRE... AND THE OTHERS PREPARED FOR AN EXPLOSION.

BUT HE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO AVOID HITTING THE WIRE.

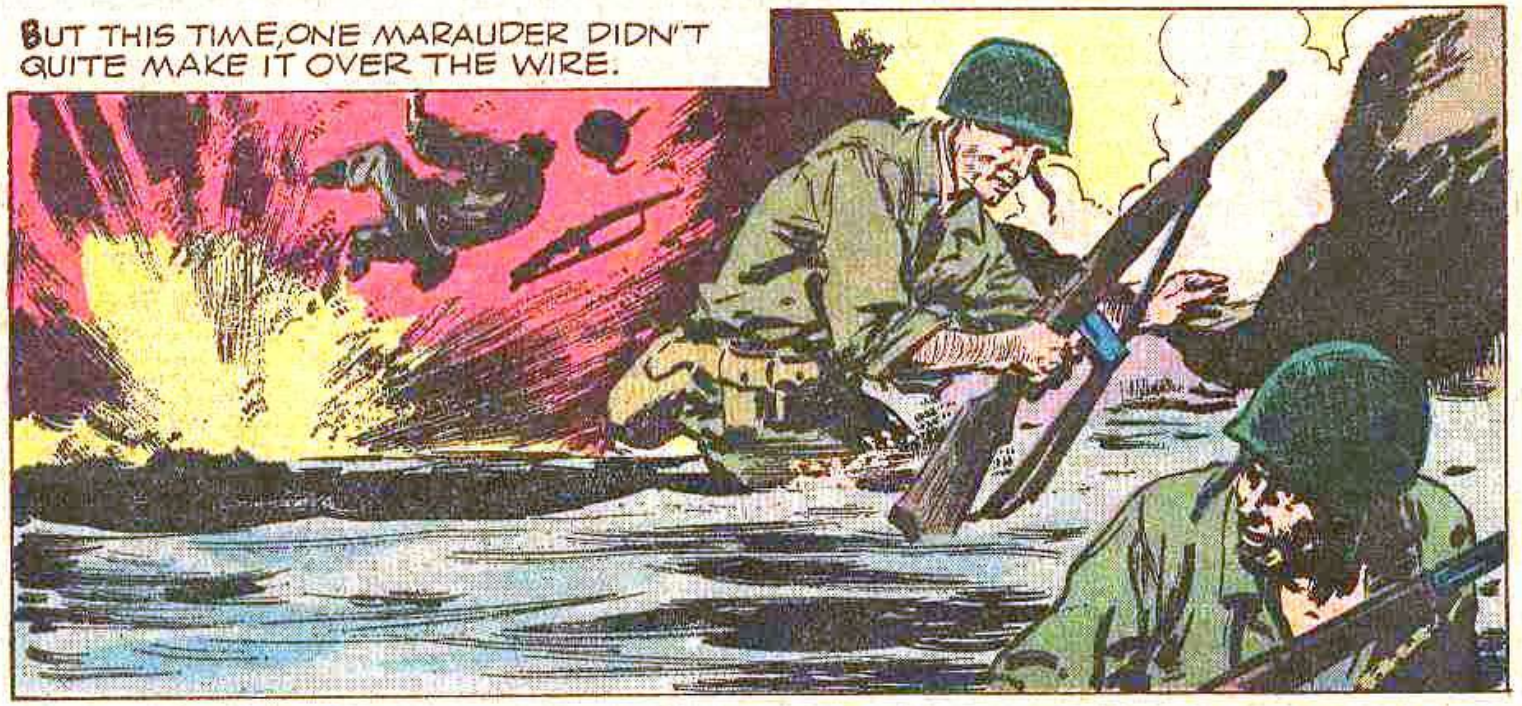


AGAIN, FURTHER UP THE STREAM...

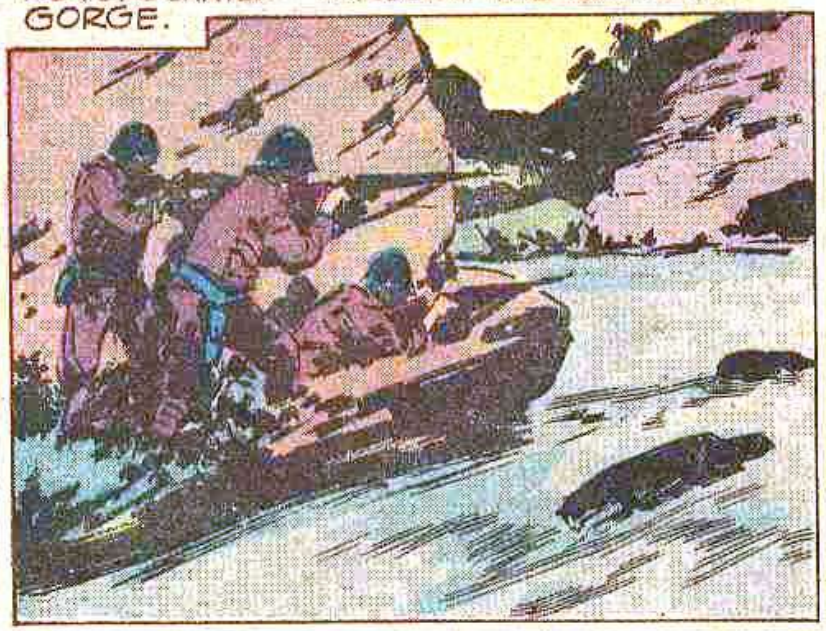
AGAIN THEY WENT THROUGH THE HORRIFYING SWEATING OUT OF EXPLOSIVE DEATH.



BUT THIS TIME, ONE MARAUDER DIDN'T QUITE MAKE IT OVER THE WIRE.

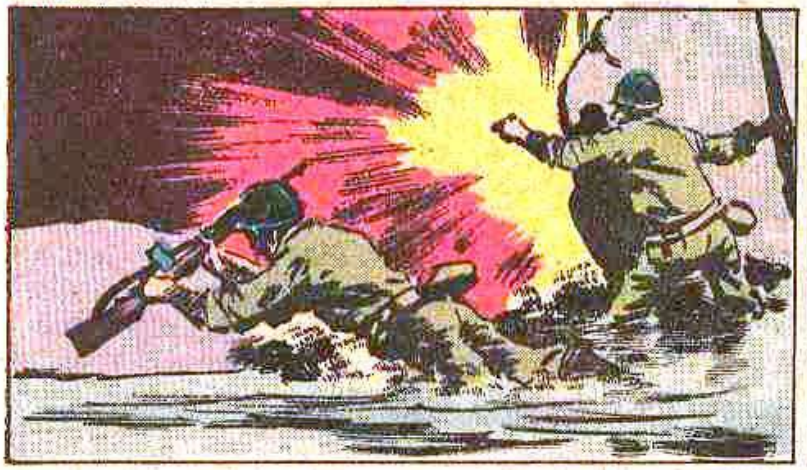


THREE JAP SOLDIERS LEAPED FROM THEIR DRY BIVOUAC ON A SMALL ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RAPIDS AS THE EXPLOSION REVERBERATED THROUGH THE NARROW GORGE.



STOCK AND HIS MEN HUGGED THE WALL, THEIR EYES SUCKING IN EVERY INCH OF THE AREA AS THEY CAREFULLY ADVANCED TO THE BEND. ONE OF THEM EASED OUT A LITTLE TOO FAR TO THE RIGHT AND...

STOCK MOTIONED FOR SGT. KOLOWICZ TO LOB A GRENADE AROUND THE BEND. AS THE GRENADE EXPLODED, STOCK MOVED LIKE A FLASH, DIVING BEHIND A CLUSTER OF ROCKS NEAR THE OTHER WALL. HE COULD NOW FACE THE ENEMY SIDE OF THE BEND.



FOR A FEW MOMENTS, STOCK WAS SUBJECTED TO ENEMY FIRE, BUT WAS PROTECTED BY THE ROCKS. HE WAITED FOR A BREAK, THEN OPENED UP WITH RAPID FIRE OF HIS OWN.

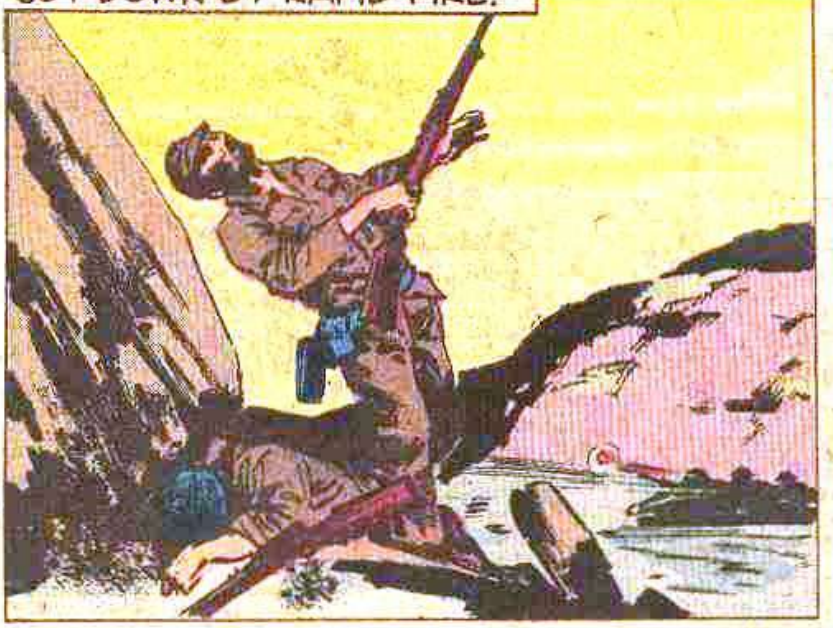
THIS FORCED THE JAPS BEHIND COVER, GIVING KOLOWICZ A CHANCE TO JOIN STOCK. HE OPENED FIRE AND HIS HOSING GAVE...

DOSKIS, HANK AND CHOWHOUND THE CHANCE TO AIM THEIR CARBINES AROUND THE BEND AND FIRE TOGETHER.

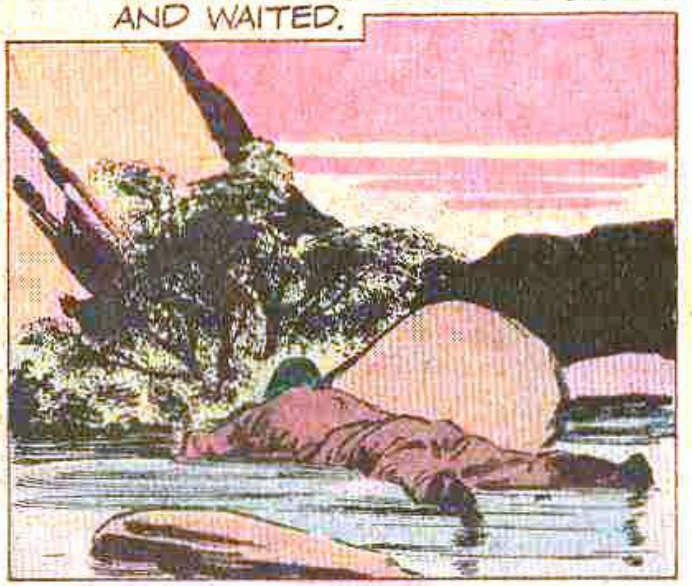
THIS TREMENDOUS FIRE GAVE BULLSEYE AND TAGGY THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH STOCK. BULLSEYE SNAKE PRONE, TOOK CAREFUL AIM. THE PLATOON FIRING STOPPED.

ONE OF THE JAPS SHOWED HIMSELF TO FIRE AND...

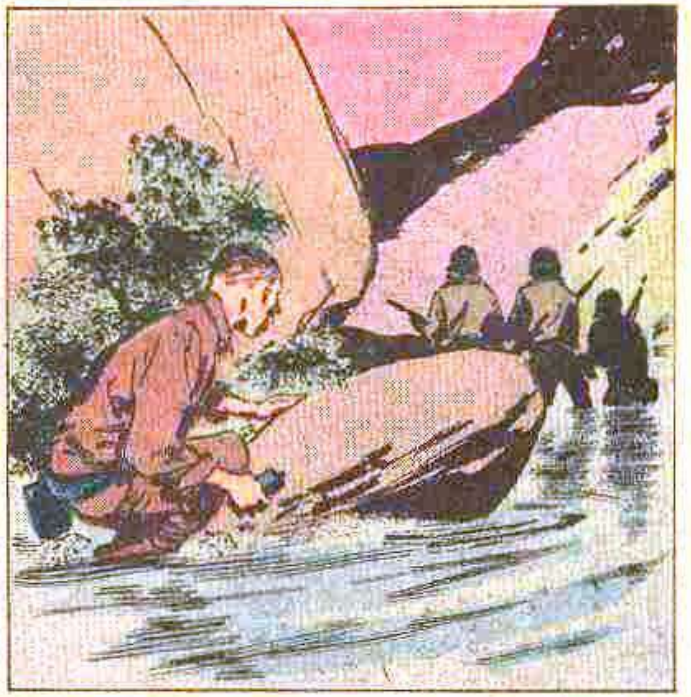
A SECOND JAP RUSHED FORWARD AND WAS CUT DOWN BY RAPID FIRE.

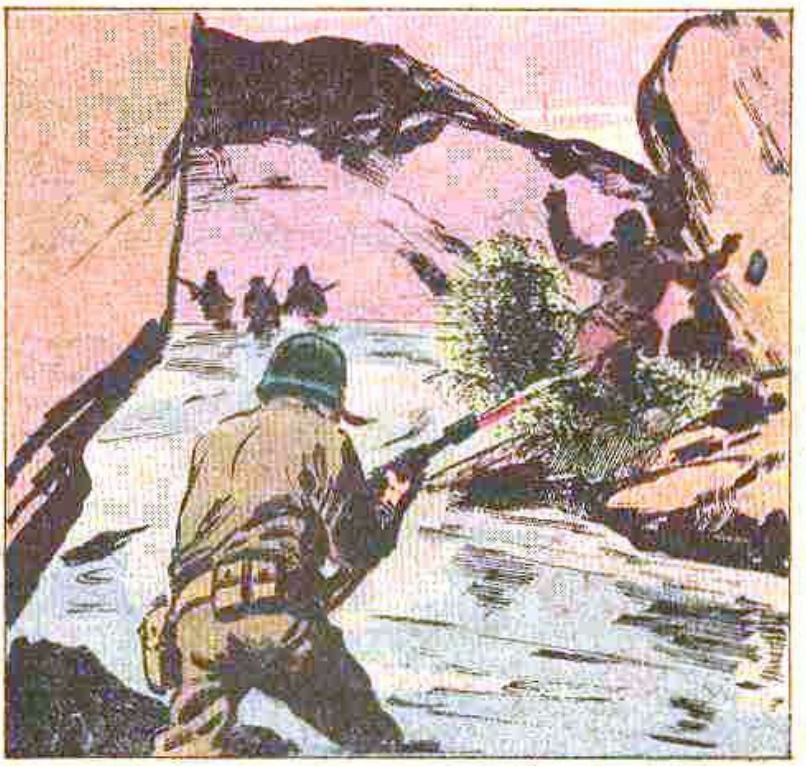


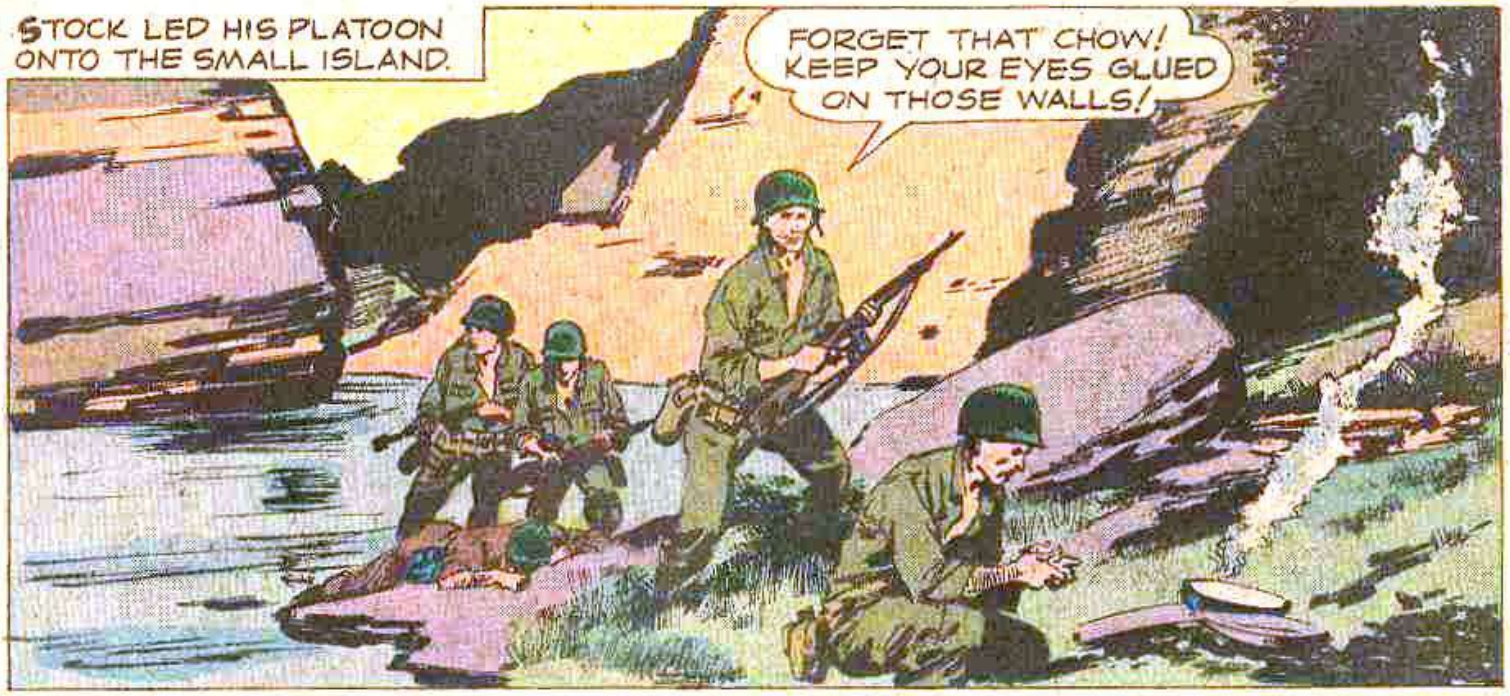
THE THIRD JAP SNAKED HIS WAY BELOW WATER UNTIL HE WAS OUT OF THE DANGER ZONE. THEN HE STOPPED AND WAITED.



AFTER THOROUGHLY SPRAYING THE AREA WITH LEAD, STOCK MOVED HIS PLATOON THROUGH THE RAPIDS.

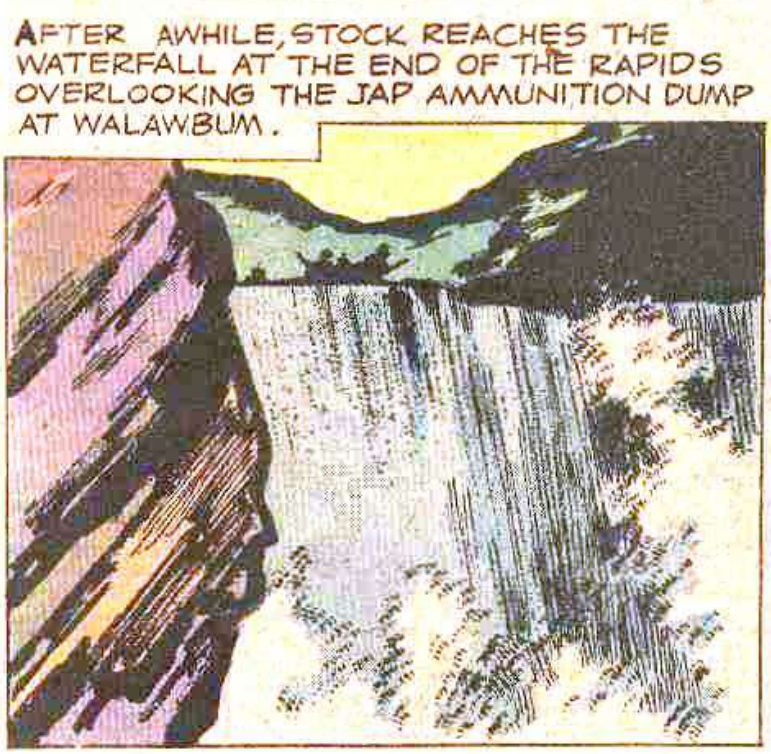





STOCK LED HIS PLATOON ONTO THE SMALL ISLAND.
FORGET THAT CHOW! KEEP YOUR EYES GLUED ON THOSE WALLS!

AT LEAST HE NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM. THAT'S HOW I WANT TO GET IT, TAGGY... FAST.
YOU WANT IT FAST?... RUN DOWN THE RAPIDS, SET OFF MORE MINES.

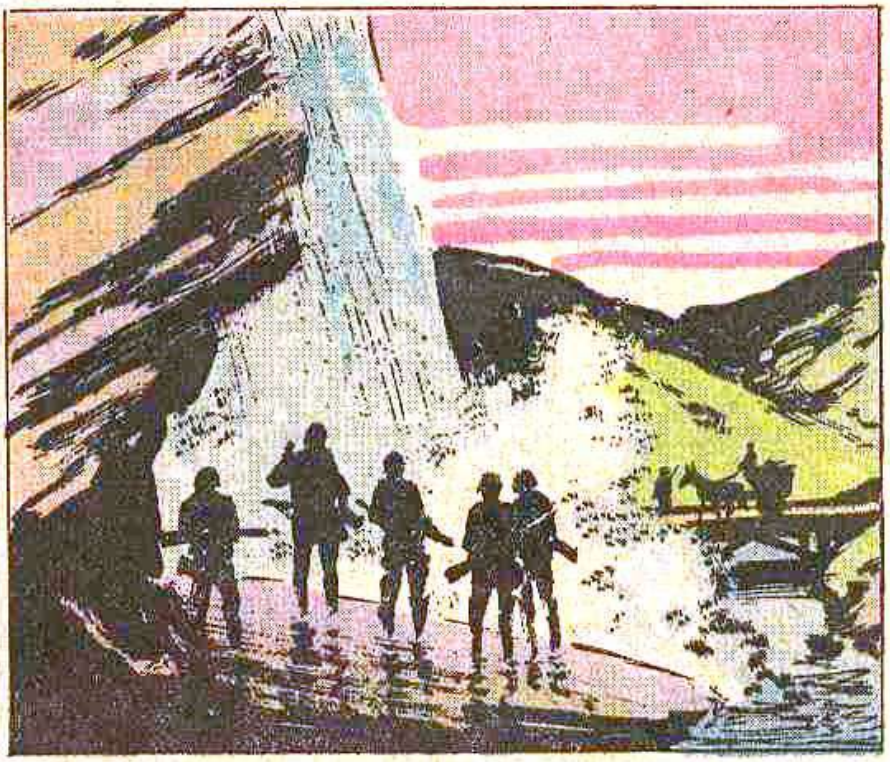
I CHECKED FOR COMMUNICATIONS. NO RADIO, NO PHONE, NO NOTHING.
PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE PATROLS THAT BIVOUACKED HERE FOR THE NIGHT... GET THEM MOVING, WE'VE GOT TO MAKE TIME!


AFTER AWHILE, STOCK REACHES THE WATERFALL AT THE END OF THE RAPIDS OVERLOOKING THE JAP AMMUNITION DUMP AT WALAWBUM.

STOCK MOVED BACK TO HIS PLATOON. HE CHECKED HIS WATCH... AND WAITED.

MEANWHILE, GEN. MERRILL RACED THROUGH THE JUNGLE TO KEEP HIS APPOINTMENT WITH STOCK.

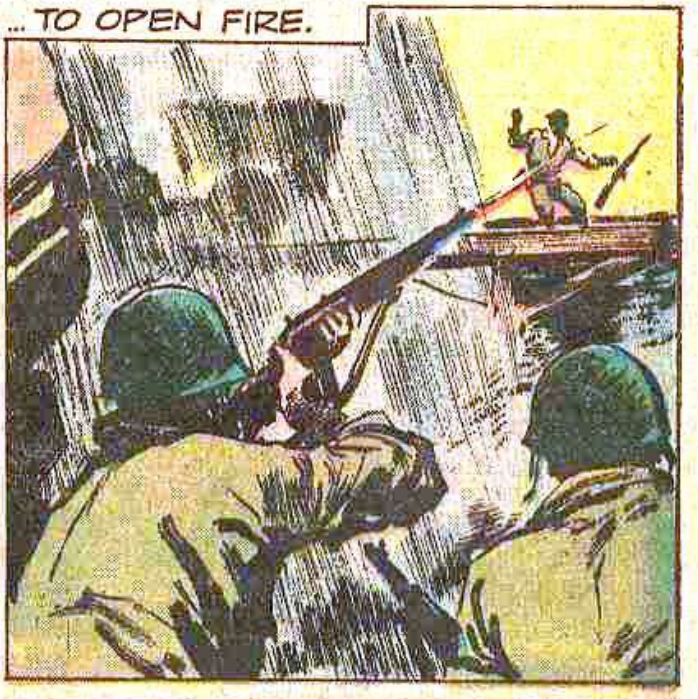
FINALLY IT WAS TIME FOR STOCK TO MAKE HIS MOVE. HE ANCHORED A ROPE TO A ROCK AT THE EDGE OF THE FALLS AND MOTIONED HIS MEN TO FOLLOW HIM.

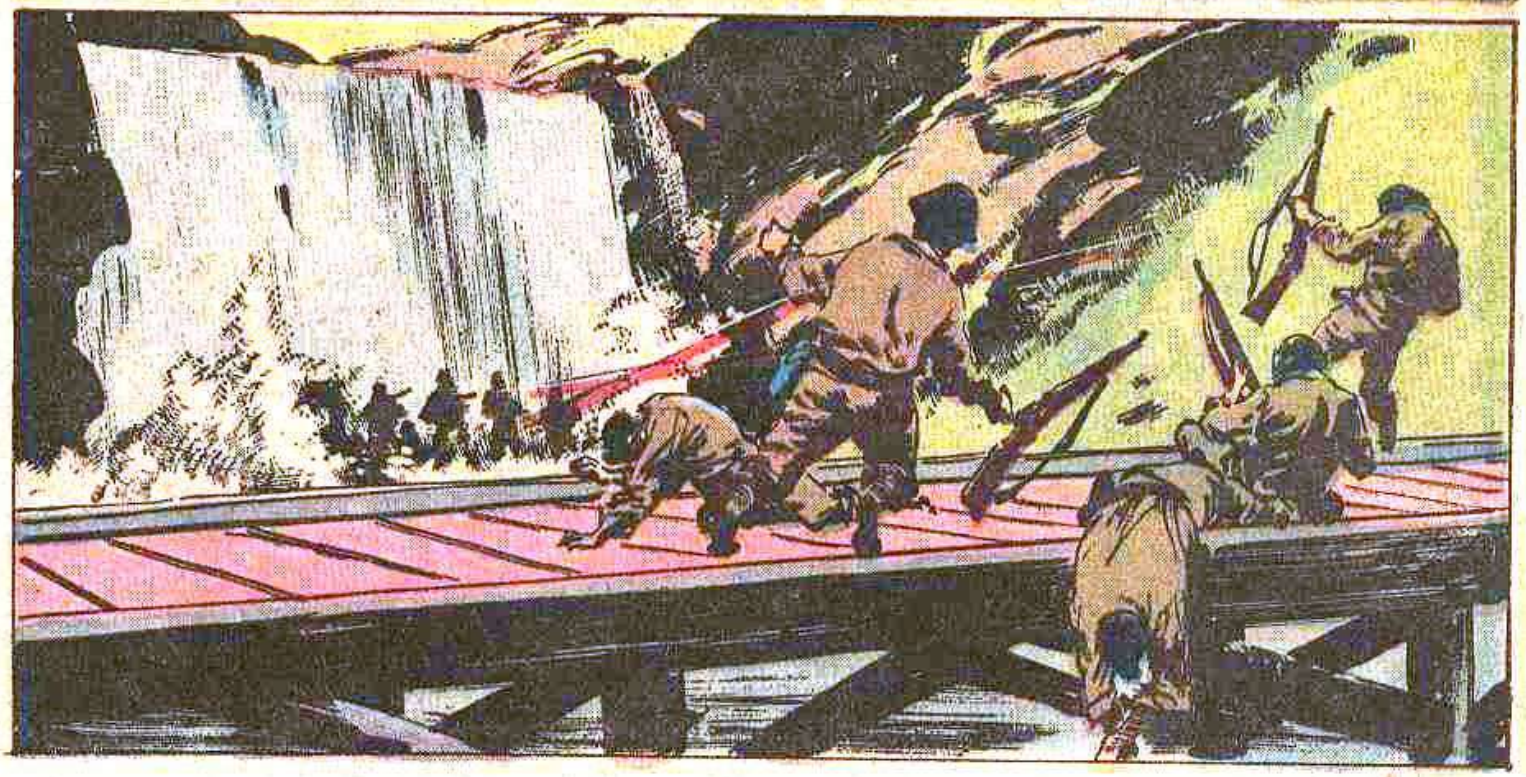


ON THE JUNGLE SIDE OF WALAWBUM, MERRILL HAD MOVED INTO POSITION AND WAS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE MOMENT FOR THE ATTACK. HE KEPT RADIOING HIS BATTALION COMMANDERS TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY WERE READY ON TIME

UNDER THE WATERFALL, STOCK LOOKED AT HIS WATCH. ALL HIS MEN WAITED FOR HIS SIGNAL....

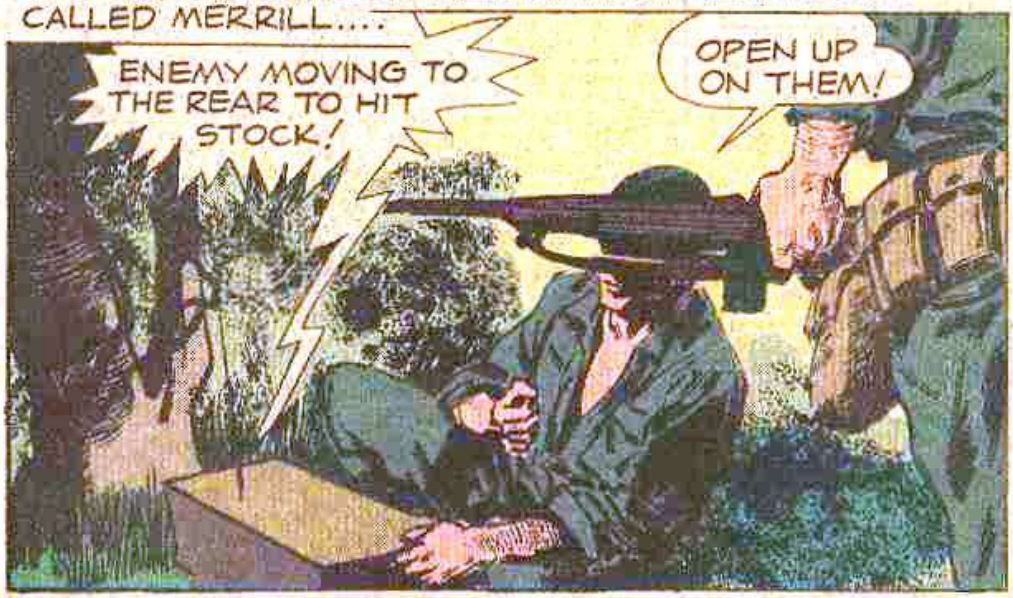
...TO OPEN FIRE.

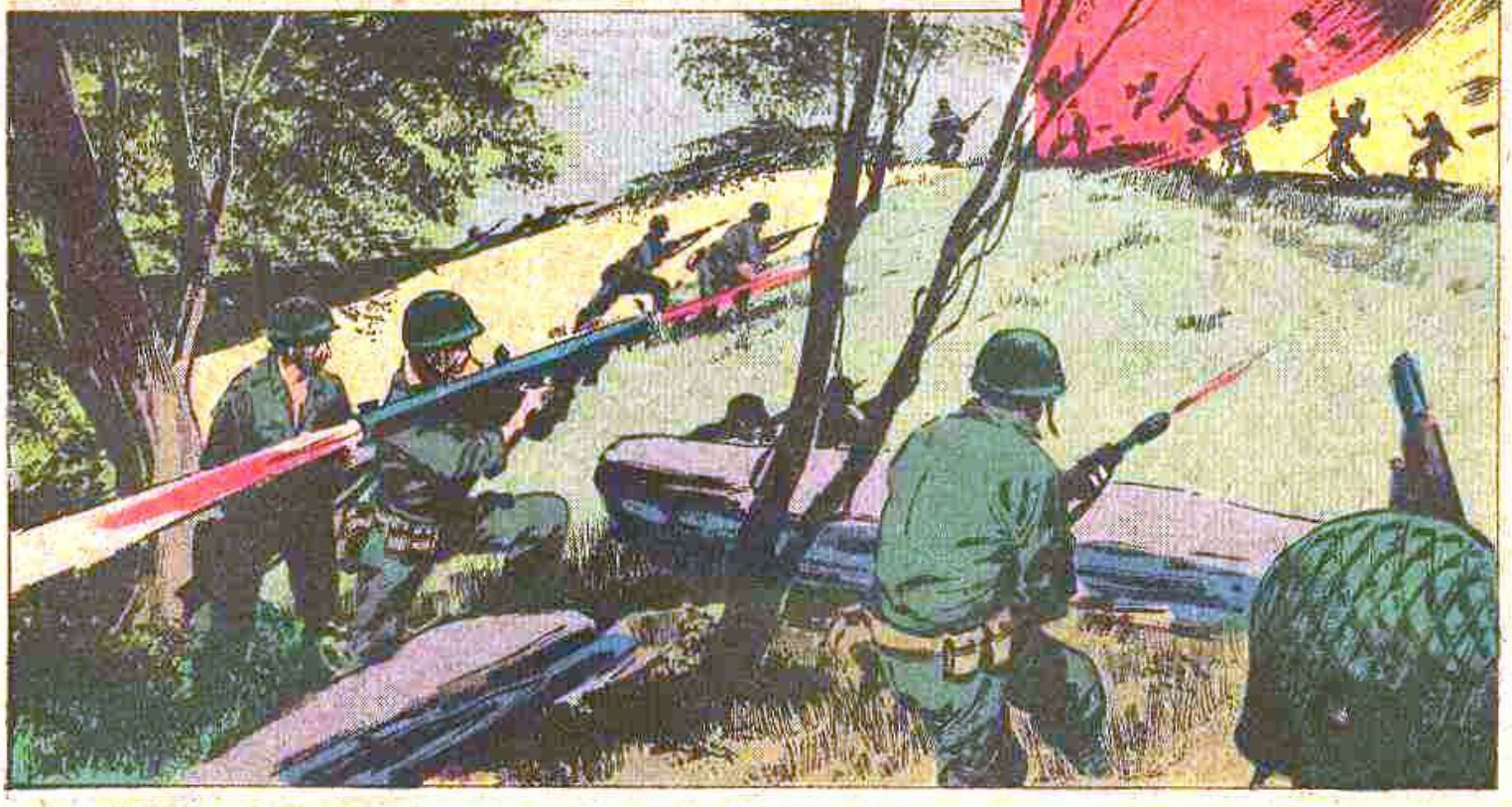




AT THE ARSENAL, AN AMAZED OFFICER DISPATCHED SOME OF HIS TROOPS TO SUPPORT THE ATTACKED FORCES AT THE BRIDGE.

BUT MERRILL'S THIRD BATTALION COMMANDER HAD THE ARSENAL UNDER WATCH. HE IMMEDIATELY CALLED MERRILL....





MERRILL'S TACTICS PAID OFF AS THE MARAUDERS CLOSED THE NOOSE ON THE ENEMY. BEFORE LONG, THE BATTLE WAS OVER AND WALAWBUM WAS SECURED.

TWO DAYS LATER, STOCK HANDED KOLOWICZ A LETTER HE HAD JUST WRITTEN....

"DEAR MRS. WHEELER: I WAS WITH YOUR SON WHEN HE DIED. HE MEANT A LOT TO US AND WE WILL MISS HIM. WOULD LIKE TO VISIT YOU WHEN WE GET HOME, IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME, AND TELL YOU MORE ABOUT ED. HE WAS MY BEST RADIO MAN. RESPECTFULLY YOURS, LEE STOCKTON, 2ND LIEUTENANT, INFANTRY." I'D MAKE IT TO MISTER AND MRS. WHEELER. ED WAS CLOSE TO HIS FATHER.

WORD HAD GONE AROUND THAT GEN. JOSEPH STILLWELL WAS COMING TO VISIT WALAWBUM AND THAT BRITISH TROOPS WERE ON THE WAY TO RELIEVE MERRILL'S MARAUDERS.

MAYBE HE'S COMING HERE TO WISH US BON VOYAGE.
WHO SAYS WE'RE GOING TO BE RELIEVED? WE'VE BEEN HERE TWO DAYS AND STILL WE'RE NURSING THIS ROAD BLOCK!

EVERYBODY KNOWS WE'RE GOING HOME. WE'VE BEEN AT GUADALCANAL, NEW GEORGIA, NEW GUINEA... AND NOW WALAWBUM. WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR 'EM TO DO BUT RELIEVE US?

AWHILE LATER, AN ADVANCE UNIT OF BRITISH TROOPS ARRIVED....

WHERE DO YOU CHAPS GO NOW? CENTRAL BURMA?
CENTRAL CINCINNATI! WE'RE GOING HOME!
LUCKY CHAPS, YOU WON'T HAVE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT MYITKYINA!*

(* PRONOUNCED **MITCHINA** - AS IT WILL BE SPELLED HENCEFORTH.)

WHAT'S THAT?
A BIG AIRBASE AND IT'S GOING TO BE ROUGH TO TAKE!
WE JUST KNOCKED OUT THIS AMMO DUMP.. WHAT'S GOING TO STOP ANYBODY FROM TAKING AN AIRSTRIP?
THE 18TH IMPERIAL JAPANESE DIVISION.

THAT DAY, GEN. "VINEGAR JOE" STILLWELL CALLED ON GEN. MERRILL. AFTER THE CUSTOMARY MILITARY GREETINGS....

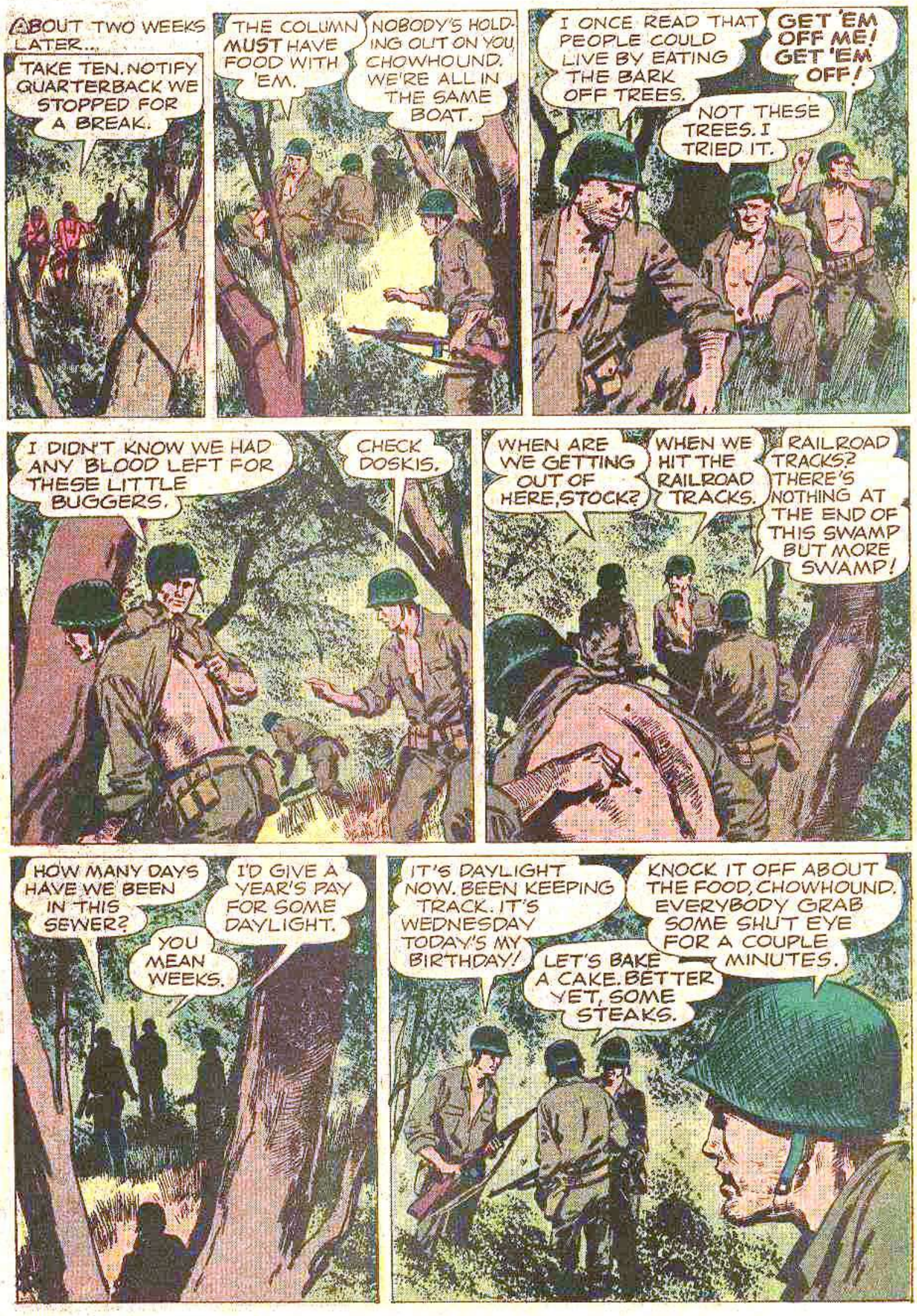
I'M WAITING FOR THE AMBULANCE PLANES FOR MY WOUNDED, SIR.
WE SENT THEM TO YOU BUT THEY WERE INTERCEPTED AND DESTROYED BY JAP ZEROS FROM MITCHINA... FRANK... YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE MITCHINA.

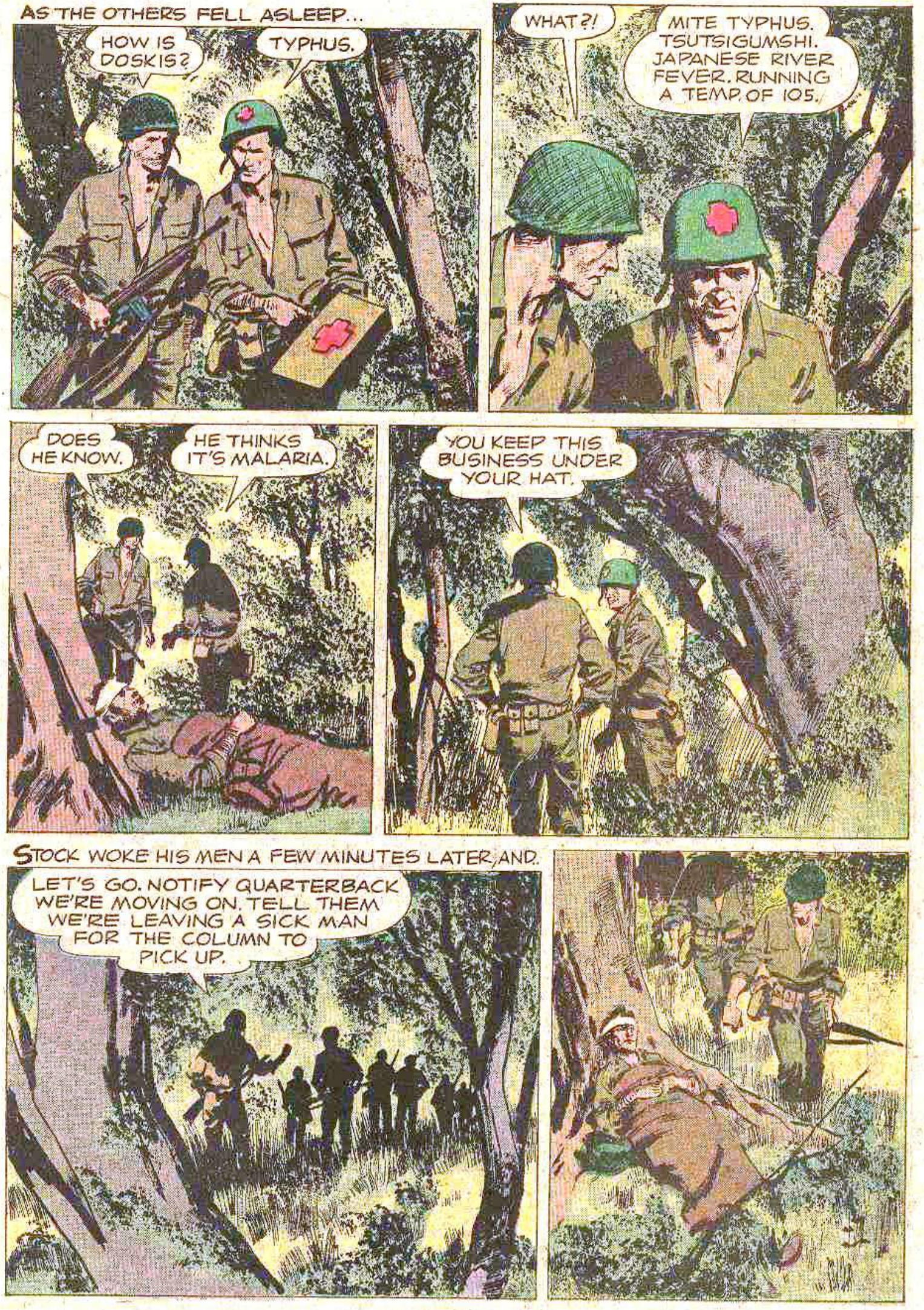
MITCHINA! THAT'S 500 MILES FROM HERE! MY MEN HAVE EARNED A BREATHER GENERAL! THEY'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK TO INDIA.
AFTER MITCHINA.

WE'RE NOT THE ONLY OUTFIT IN BURMA.
YOU'RE THE ONLY AMERICAN INFANTRY I HAVE BETWEEN NEW GUINEA AND ITALY... I SUGGEST YOU KNOCK OUT THEIR RAILHEAD FIRST AND THIS POINT, SHADUZUP... AND CRIPPLE THEIR TRANSPORTATION.

MY MEN ALL WAIVED EARNED FURLOUGHS TO VOLUNTEER FOR ONE MISSION... WALAWBUM. THEY NEED HOSPITALIZATION AND REST.
OUR JOB IS TO KEEP THE JAPANESE OUT OF INDIA, TO STOP THEM FROM LINKING WITH THE GERMANS. THAT'S MY NIGHTMARE, FRANK... A MILLION JAPS JOINING FORCES WITH THE GERMAN ARMY. I'M SORRY, FRANK, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE DONE.

WITH THAT, STILLWELL LEFT. MERRILL, WEARY AND DISAPPOINTED, SENT FOR STOCK.
YOU'RE GOING TO GET THE WORD NOW, LIEUTENANT.
MAYBE WE'LL GET A PRIVATE PLANE.
ANY KIND OF A PLANE AS LONG AS IT'S CALCUTTA.
MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE A PARADE FOR US IN NEW YORK.
HOW FAR IS IT FROM CALCUTTA TO L.A.?
YOU SENT FOR ME, SIR?
THIS IS SHADUZUP.. A RAILHEAD THAT'S GOT TO BE PUT OUT OF ACTION. THE JAPS ARE SITTING ON EVERY FOOT OF TRAIL BETWEEN US AND SHADUZUP. THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY WE CAN BY-PASS THEM.
SEE THAT AREA? THAT'S THE TANAI SWAMP. NO ONE WOULD EVER EXPECT US TO BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO MOVE THROUGH IT... BUT THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO. CAN YOU STILL HANDLE THE POINT?
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SIR.
I ASKED YOU FOR YOUR OPINION, STOCK, ARE YOUR MEN UP TO STAYING OUT FRONT? IF THEY'RE NOT, I'LL PUT ANOTHER PLATOON ON POINT.
THEY'RE UP TO IT, SIR...
FINE. WE'RE PUSHING OFF RIGHT NOW.
YES, SIR.
FRANK... DON'T YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE TOLD HIM ABOUT MITCHINA?
YOU KEEP MITCHNA UNDER YOUR HAT!


ABOUT TWO WEEKS LATER...
TAKE TEN. NOTIFY QUARTERBACK WE STOPPED FOR A BREAK.
THE COLUMN MUST HAVE FOOD WITH 'EM.
NOBODY'S HOLDING OUT ON YOU, CHOWHOUND. WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT.
I ONCE READ THAT PEOPLE COULD LIVE BY EATING THE BARK OFF TREES.
GET 'EM OFF ME! GET 'EM OFF!
NOT THESE TREES. I TRIED IT.
I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD ANY BLOOD LEFT FOR THESE LITTLE BUGGERS.
CHECK DOSKIS.
WHEN ARE WE GETTING OUT OF HERE, STOCK?
WHEN WE HIT THE RAILROAD TRACKS.
RAILROAD TRACKS? THERE'S NOTHING AT THE END OF THIS SWAMP BUT MORE SWAMP!
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE WE BEEN IN THIS SEWER?
I'D GIVE A YEAR'S PAY FOR SOME DAYLIGHT.
YOU MEAN WEEKS.
IT'S DAYLIGHT NOW. BEEN KEEPING TRACK. IT'S WEDNESDAY TODAY'S MY BIRTHDAY!
KNOCK IT OFF ABOUT THE FOOD, CHOWHOUND. EVERYBODY GRAB SOME SHUT EYE FOR A COUPLE MINUTES.
LET'S BAKE A CAKE. BETTER YET, SOME STEAKS.


AS THE OTHERS FELL ASLEEP...
HOW IS DOSKIS?
TYPHUS.
WHAT?!
MITE TYPHUS. TSUTSIGUMSHI. JAPANESE RIVER FEVER. RUNNING A TEMP. OF 105.
DOES HE KNOW.
HE THINKS IT'S MALARIA.
YOU KEEP THIS BUSINESS UNDER YOUR HAT.
STOCK WOKE HIS MEN A FEW MINUTES LATER, AND.
LET'S GO. NOTIFY QUARTERBACK WE'RE MOVING ON. TELL THEM WE'RE LEAVING A SICK MAN FOR THE COLUMN TO PICK UP.

MEANWHILE, FURTHER BACK....
I TOLD YOU ALL I HAD WAS A DIZZY SPELL. NOTHING TO IT DOC.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING AWAY WITH THIS?
AWAY WITH WHAT? IN MY LAST PHYSICAL I WAS ALL RIGHT.
HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET PALPITATIONS? WHEN DID YOU LAST GET A PAIN IN YOUR LEFT ARM? DO YOU BREAK INTO COLD SWEATS AT NIGHT?
OKAY! I HAD AN ATTACK THREE YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS IN TOKYO. I GOT TREATED AT A PRIVATE HOSPITAL.
WHAT WAS THE DIAGNOSIS?
MERRILL DIDN'T ANSWER....
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IT WAS. CORONARY OCCULSION. THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE STILL GOT!
DOC, KEEP THIS UNDER YOUR HAT! THAT'S AN ORDER.
SOMETIME LATER....
DEAD.
WE'VE BEEN GOING ROUND IN A CIRCLE! DOSKIS IS RIGHT WHERE WE LEFT HIM. WE'RE LOST!

CHRIS, GET QUARTERBACK.
STOCK TO QUARTER-BACK. STOCK TO QUARTERBACK.
THERE WAS NO REPLY. CHRIS TRIED AGAIN....
YOUR WASTING TIME, CHRIS. WE'RE LOST AND NO-BODY CARES! MERRILL DOESN'T CARE OR HE WOULDN'T HAVE DUMPED US IN THIS SWAMP!
TAKE IT EASY, BULLSEYE. WE'LL MAKE IT, ALL RIGHT. COME ON, WE'LL FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE.
FACE FACTS, STOCK, WE'RE LOST! RAIL-ROAD TRACKS? HAH! RIGHT HERE... WHERE WE'RE STANDING.... WHERE DOSKIS IS DEAD.... ARE TRACKS. CEMETERY TRACKS! RIGHT IN THIS SWAMP IS WHERE THEY'LL FIND MERRILL'S VOLUNTEERS A HUN-DRED YEARS FROM NOW AND THE LAST GUY WILL HAVE TO BURY HIMSELF!
CUT IT! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS!
SURE WE GOT PROBLEMS! WE'RE, LOST! THE RADIO'S OUT! WHERE'S MERRILL? YOU THINK HE'S CRAZY ENOUGH TO BE IN THIS SWAMP? WE'RE **HERE** BUT WHERE IS **HE**? WHERE'S THE GENERAL RIGHT NOW?
THERE HE IS.

MERRILL REACHED STOCK, LOOKED AT DOSKIS, THEN LOOKED AT STOCK'S MEN... AND IN A FLASH SURMISED WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

SUDDENLY, A JAP MACHINE GUN STARTED TO RAKE THE AREA....

THE DEADLY SILENCE WAS SUDDENLY BROKEN BY TWO RIFLE SHOTS. THEN IT WAS QUIET AGAIN. MOMENTS LATER....

MERRILL CHARGED INTO THE UNDERBRUSH. HE STOPPED AS HE SAW...

MERRILL WENT OVER GENTLY LIFTED THE BODY UP, AND TURNED IT OVER.

'T WAS AN ENEMY SOLDIER. MERRILL SIGHED WITH RELIEF.

THE GENERAL TURNED AS HE HEARD STOCK'S VOICE....

THERE IT IS, SIR!

SEND A MESSAGE FOR FOOD.

THE RED-EYED, BEARDED, EXHAUSTED, STARVING MEN WERE SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED INTO EAGER, HAPPY MARAUDERS...AND JUST AS SUDDENLY SHATTERED AS MERRILL GAVE THE ORDER TO MOVE ON.

BUT THESE MEN HAVE TO EAT!

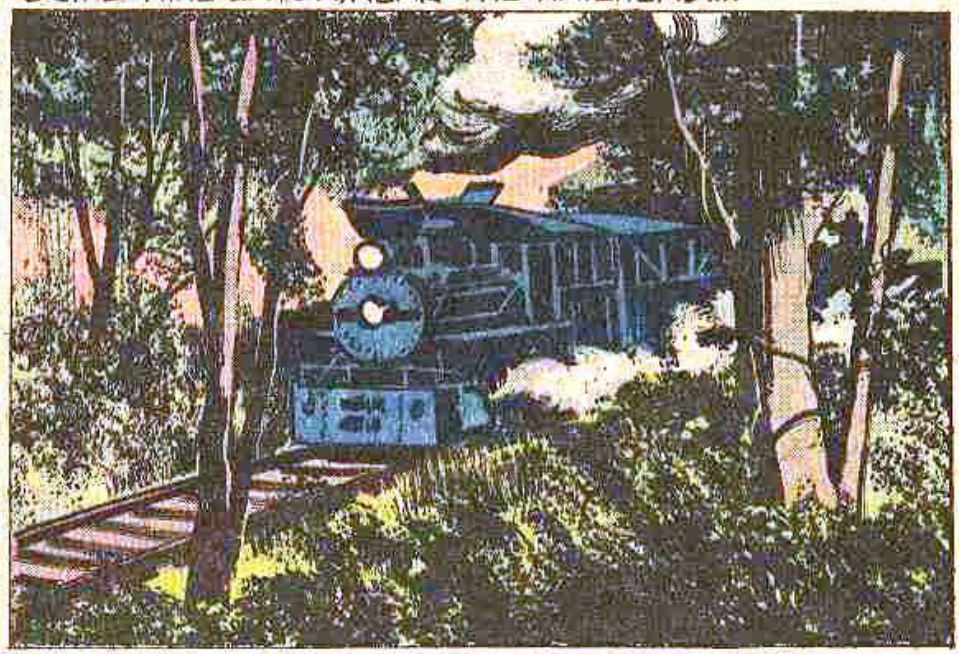
I'D PREFER THEM TO BE HUNGRY THAN DEAD. THE JAPS KNOW WERE IN THIS AREA. THOSE PARACHUTES BRINGING FOOD WILL ALSO BRING JAPS RIGHT TO THIS SPOT... WHERE WE WON'T BE.

HOLY SMOKE, GENERAL, ALL THAT FOOD BEING FLOWN TO US AND WE'VE GOT, TO LEAVE!

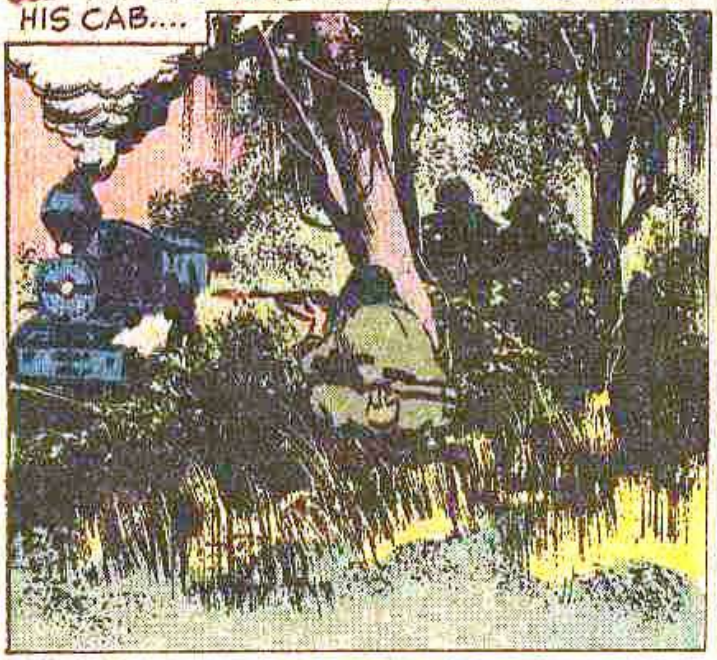
DOWN THESE TRACKS ABOUT EIGHT MILES IS OUR OBJECTIVE.... WE'LL EAT JAP FOOD. GET BACK ON THE POINT AGAIN, STOCK. MOVE DOWN THE SWAMP PARALLEL TO THE RAILROAD TRACKS.

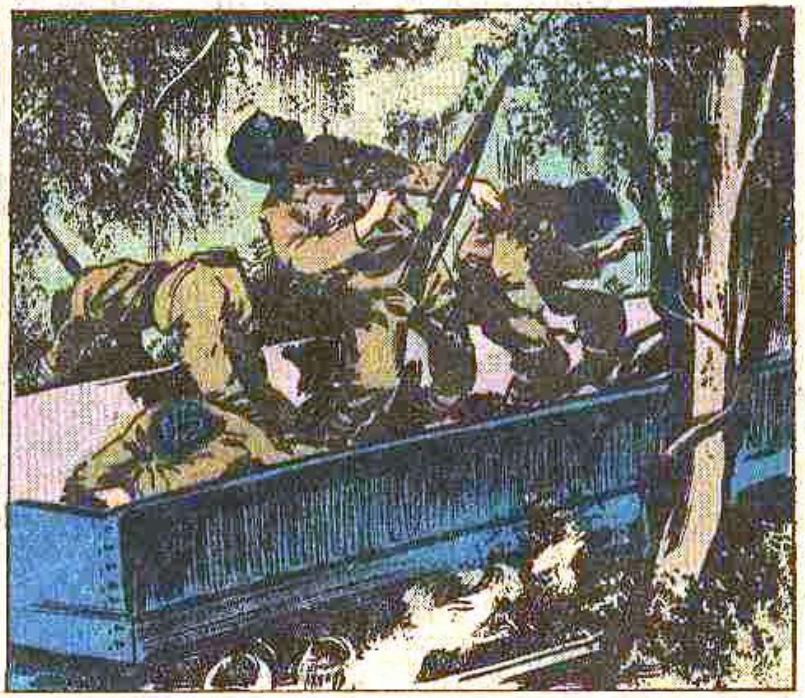
WHEN THE MARAUDERS MOVED ON, ONE OF THEM STAYED BEHIND, HIDDEN IN THE UNDERBRUSH. IT WAS CHOWHOUND, WAITING FOR THE FOOD DROP. WHEN IT FINALLY CAME, HE DASHED ACROSS THE OPEN AREA AND RIPPED INTO THE BOXES OF K RATIONS LIKE A MANIAC. SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A BURST OF RIFLE FIRE FROM THE JUNGLE AND CHOW-HOUND WAS KILLED, SURROUNDED BY ALL THE FOOD HE'D EVER DREAMED OF. MERRILL'S TRICK HAD WORKED. CLOSE TO 1,000 JAPS SURROUNDED THE FOOD DROP AREA....

SOME TIME LATER, NEAR THE RAILHEAD....



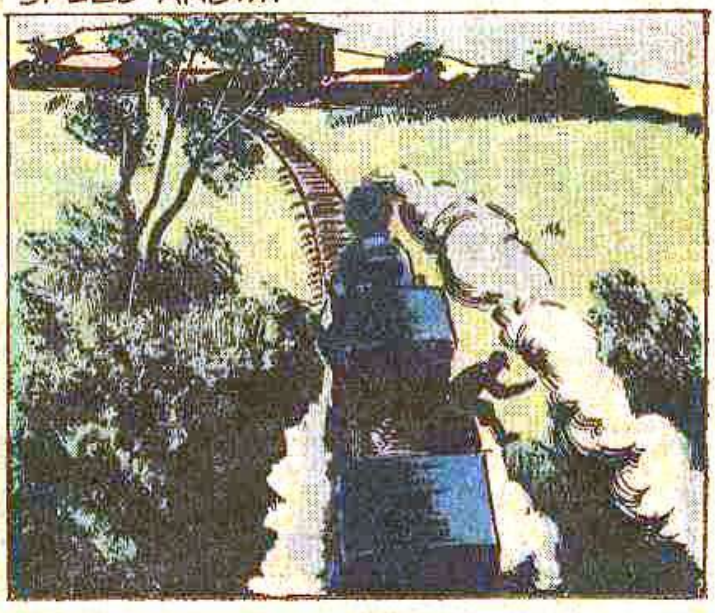
AS THE JAP ENGINEER STEPPED FROM HIS CAB....





THEN THE LOCOMOTIVE WAS RIGGED AS A HUGE, ROLLING BOMB....

MULEY SET THE LOCOMOTIVE IN MOTION AND TOOK IT TO FULL SPEED. AS HE NEARED THE SHADUZUP RAILHEAD, HE LASHED THE THROTTLE TO FULL SPEED AND....



MERRILL FULLY EXPLOITED THE JAPS' CONFUSION AND SOON WAS IN COMPLETE CONTROL...
WELL, DOC, WHAT'S THE SCORE?
BEGINNING WITH THE 1ST BATTALION - WELL, 89 MEN WITH DENGUE, CHOLERA AND UNIDENTIFIED FEVERS, 19 WITH TYPHUS, 62 WITH MALARIA, TWO OUT OF THREE HAVE DYSENTERY AND ALL HAVE JUNGLE ROT IN VARYING STAGES AND --
EXCUSE ME, DOC. HERE'S A MESSAGE FROM NORTHERN COMBAT AREA COMMAND.

WOULD YOU READ IT, PLEASE, BARNEY?
"THREE JAPANESE DIVISIONS INVADING INDIA. BRITISH COUNTERATTACKING IMPERATIVE WE TAKE MITCHINA. CAN YOU DO IT? STILLWELL."

FROM A MEDICAL VIEWPOINT, YOUR OUTFIT'S FINISHED AS A FIGHTING UNIT. I'VE SEEN EXHAUSTION BEFORE, BUT NEVER ANYTHING LIKE THIS. I'M MAKING EVERY MAN A.O.E.--ACCUMULATION OF EVERYTHING.
LET'S TAKE A WALK, DOC.

AFTER LOOKING OVER HIS COMMAND, MERRILL SENT FOR STOCK. WHEN STOCK ARRIVED AT THE COMMAND POST...

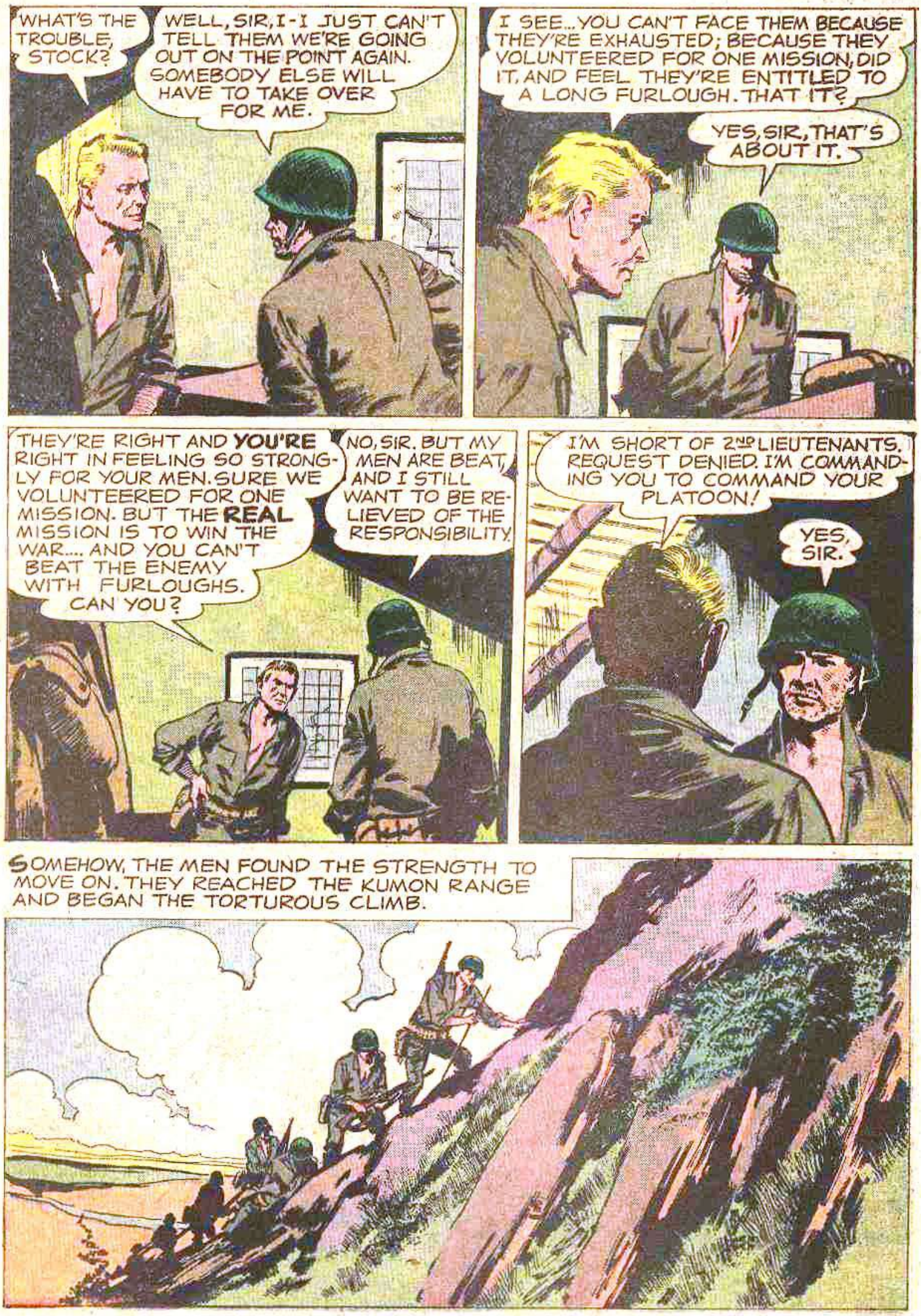
THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CLIMB THOSE MOUNTAINS, THEY NEED ONE WEEK OF REST. SOLID REST. HOT FOOD. MEDICAL CARE. AT LEAST A WEEK.
WE HAVEN'T THE TIME! I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CAUGHT HALFWAY UP THOSE MOUNTAINS, IN THE RAIN. WE'D BE WASHED AWAY.

STILLWELL GAVE YOU AN OUT FRANK. HE SAID THE DECISION TO KEEP GOING TO MITCHINA IS UP TO YOU.
YES, BARNEY, IT'S STRICTLY MY DECISION TO KEEP FIGHTING.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SAY WE DO GET THE OUTFIT ON ITS FEET AND MOVING AGAIN. LET'S SAY WE GET SOME OF THEM ACROSS THE KUMON RANGE, WHICH I DOUBT...GETTING TO MITCHINA IS ONE THING. BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE MITCHINA WHEN YOUR MEN ARE ON THEIR KNEES?
THEN THEY'LL FIGHT ON THEIR KNEES!

MERRILL CALLED STOCK OVER AND...

I WANT YOU TO TAKE THE POINT TO THE BASE OF THOSE MOUNTAINS. WATCH OUT FOR.... WHAT'S THE MATTER, SON?
SIR, I WANT TO BE RELIEVED OF THE COMMAND OF MY PLATOON.


WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, STOCK?
WELL, SIR, I-I JUST CAN'T TELL THEM WE'RE GOING OUT ON THE POINT AGAIN. SOMEBODY ELSE WILL HAVE TO TAKE OVER FOR ME.
I SEE... YOU CAN'T FACE THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE EXHAUSTED; BECAUSE THEY VOLUNTEERED FOR ONE MISSION, DID IT, AND FEEL THEY'RE ENTITLED TO A LONG FURLOUGH. THAT IT?
YES, SIR, THAT'S ABOUT IT.
THEY'RE RIGHT AND YOU'RE RIGHT IN FEELING SO STRONGLY FOR YOUR MEN. SURE WE VOLUNTEERED FOR ONE MISSION. BUT THE REAL MISSION IS TO WIN THE WAR.... AND YOU CAN'T BEAT THE ENEMY WITH FURLOUGHS. CAN YOU?
NO, SIR. BUT MY MEN ARE BEAT, AND I STILL WANT TO BE RELIEVED OF THE RESPONSIBILITY.
I'M SHORT OF 2ND LIEUTENANTS. REQUEST DENIED. I'M COMMANDING YOU TO COMMAND YOUR PLATOON!
YES, SIR.
SOMEHOW, THE MEN FOUND THE STRENGTH TO MOVE ON. THEY REACHED THE KUMON RANGE AND BEGAN THE TORTUROUS CLIMB.

AS THEY STRUGGLED UP THE MOUNTAIN, MERRILL FELT A DROP OF RAIN. IMMEDIATELY...

CLOSE UP THE COLUMN! COME ON, MOVE! FASTER! YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP MOVING! I JUST FELT A COUPLE OF RAIN DROPS! IF WE GET CAUGHT HERE WE'LL BE WASHED AWAY!

WHO CARES?

ON YOUR FEET! GET UP! MOVE!

THEN MERRILL WAS OVERCOME BY A WAVE OF DIZZINESS. AS DOC RAN TO HIM, A MARAUDER COLLAPSED NEARBY. MERRILL WAVED DOC TO THE FALLEN SOLDIER....

KEEP MOVING... KEEP MOVING...

DEAD. I BELIEVE IT'S, TYPHUS AGAIN, FRANK. AND WE'VE BEEN HIT BY PNEUMONIA.

SOMEHOW, THEY MADE THE CREST AND LOOKED DOWN ACROSS THE PLAINS OF MITCHINA....

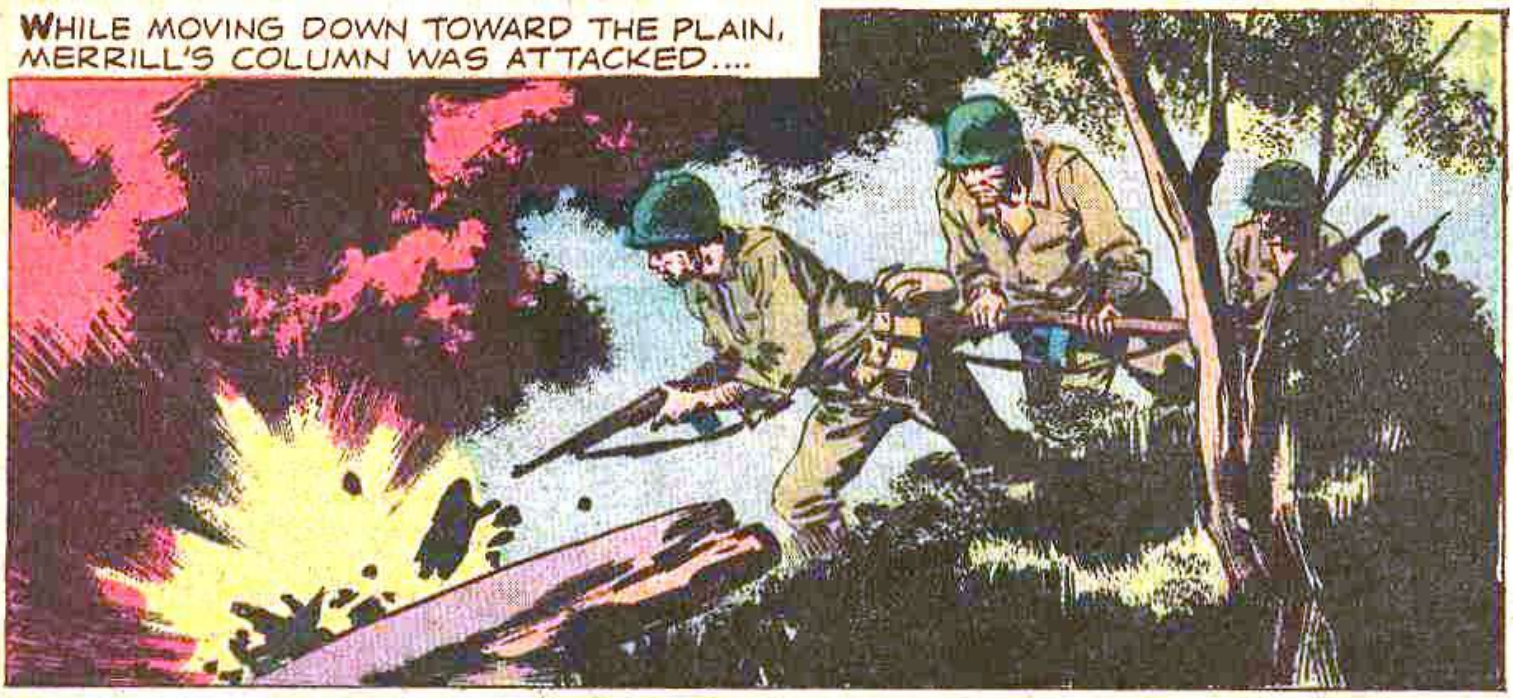
YOU COME IN FROM THE SOUTH END. I'LL PLOW IN FROM THE NORTH!

I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF DIVIDING OUR FORCES, FRANK. IT'S TOO BIG A RISK.

THE JAPS BELIEVE WE'RE FIVE TIMES OUR STRENGTH. BY SPLITTING UP, WE CAN MAKE THEM THINK WE **ARE** FIVE TIMES OUR STRENGTH. I'M GAMBLING THEY BUY IT. SEE YOU IN MITCHINA.

I STILL DON'T LIKE IT.

WHILE MOVING DOWN TOWARD THE PLAIN, MERRILL'S COLUMN WAS ATTACKED....



AFTER BATTERING THE MARAUDERS THROUGH THE NIGHT, THE JAPS SUDDENLY STOPPED. MERRILL CALLED BANNISTER AND...

WE HAVE REACHED MITCHINA. WE ARE ATTACKING. RESISTANCE HEAVY.
THAT'S WHY THE JAPS PULLED OUT. THEY'RE HEADING BACK TO DEFEND MITCHINA. WE'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON.

AS MERRILL SURVEYED THE FIELD, WITH IT'S GREAT NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, HE SAW STOCK. HE WENT OVER AND...

THEN...

THE UNCONSCIOUS COMMANDER WAS CARRIED INTO THE CAVE "HOSPITAL."

A SHORT TIME LATER, THE RADIO MAN AND A STAFF OFFICER LOOKED UP IN AMAZEMENT AS MERRILL ENTERED HIS COMMAND POST...

I WANT EVERY MAN WHO CAN WALK. EVERY MAN WHO CAN CARRY A GUN. ANYBODY WHO CAN PULL A TRIGGER. NOW!
GENERAL! THEY CAN'T MAKE IT! THERE ISN'T A MAN HERE WHO IS CAPABLE OF FURTHER EFFORT. YOU LEAST OF ALL! THEY'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

WHEN MERRILL CAME TO, HE HEARD PLANES IN FLIGHT. HE LOOKED UP AT DOC QUESTIONINGLY..

THOSE ARE OUR PLANES, FRANK. YOUR MEN ARE TAKING THE STRIP. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY DID IT. THEY FOUGHT WHEN THEY HAD TYPHUS AND MALARIA; WHEN THEY WERE ON THEIR KNEES. WHAT KIND OF MEN ARE THESE? WHAT ARE THEY? WHO ARE THEY?
THEY'RE THE INFANTRY.

# GENERAL MERRILL

**FRANK DOW MERRILL** was born at Hopkinton, Mass. on Dec. 4, 1903. He enlisted in the regular army and graduated from West Point in 1929.

Assigned to Tokyo in 1938 and to the China-Burma-India Theatre of Operations when the U.S. entered World War II in 1941, he became operations chief for Gen. Joseph W. Stillwell. As such, he organized and led the force which came to be known as "Merrill's Marauders."

In 1945, Merrill was Chief of Staff of the 10th Army, Okinawa. In 1947, he was with the U.S. military advisory group to the Republic of the Philippines. He retired from the army in 1948 with the rank of major general.

The physical and mental hardships of his campaign in Burma during the second world war had left their mark on Merrill and he died, at the age of 52, at Fernandina Beach, Fla. He was one of America's truly great generals . . .

U.S. ARMY PHOTOGRAPH.

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